



Official Action is enclosed. The documents cited in the Official Action may be pertinent for the reasons noted therein.

A partial translation for Japanese Patent Publication (B2) No. 4-14811 is also enclosed, along with an Abstract for Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application (A) No. 61-70823 which according to a commercial database corresponds to the B2 document.

Both a partial translation and Abstract for Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 63-107254 are also enclosed.

It will be appreciated that Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application Nos. 62-189823 and 5-252165, which were cited in the Official Action, were cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed June 19, 2001, and April 27, 2000, respectively; accordingly, these documents are not listed on the Form PTO-1449, although Abstracts for these documents have been provided and are so listed.

#### FORMAL MATTERS

Any fee required in connection with this paper should be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0383. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

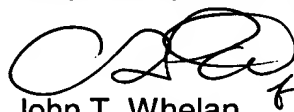
#### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: PD-N94026G  
Customer No.: 020991

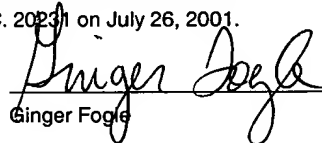
Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at (301) 428-7172. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on July 26, 2001.

  
Ginger Fogle